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# ROM

HE COMES--A  
SILVER RIDER OF  
THE SPACEWAYS...

HE SEEKS SUSTENANCE  
FOR HIS MIGHTY MASTER...  
GALACTUS.

HE IS...  
ROM!



Two-hundred years ago, the evil Dire Wraiths threatened the peace-loving planet, Galador. In their homeworld's darkest hour, a thousand brave, young Galadorians sacrificed humanity itself to become Cyborg Warriors, a last desperate line of defense. Though hopelessly outnumbered, these Spaceknights triumphed, and pursued the remnants of the Wraith horde across the universe. Now, alone in the Enemy's mightiest stronghold, on a backward planet called Earth, one Galadorian Warrior faces his most awesome challenge.

**STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS--ROM!**

BILL MANTLO / SAL BUSCEMA / JOE SINNOTT / NOVAK, LETTERS / AL MILGROM / JIM SHOOTER  
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**TERMINATOR!**

HE TRIED TO  
STOP GALACTUS  
FROM DEVOURING  
OUR WORLD,  
ROM --

--FOR WHICH  
GALACTUS  
MERCILESSLY  
MURDERED  
HIM!

TO UNDERSTAND ROM'S SENSE OF LOSS, YOU MUST  
KNOW THAT ALL SPACEKNIGHTS ARE CYBORGS--  
GRAFTINGS OF MEN AND MACHINES.

TERMINATOR, HOWEVER, WAS DIFFERENT. HIS  
HUMANITY HAD BEEN DESTROYED CENTURIES AGO--  
ONLY HIS BRAIN PATTERNS SURVIVED TO BE IM-  
PLANTED IN EBONY SPACEKNIGHT ARMOR. HIS  
REMORSE DROVE HIM TO MADNESS, TO MURDER.

WHEN THE EVIL MENTUS OFFERED TERMINATOR  
THAT HALF OF ROM'S HUMANITY STORED AWAY ON  
GALADOR, TERMINATOR ACCEPTED... AND MENTUS  
CREATED A SECOND ROM, EVERY BIT AS POWERFUL  
AS THE FIRST.

NOW THAT SECOND ROM IS DEAD--  
SLAIN BY GALACTUS-- GONE  
WITH HIM IS THE TRUE ROM'S  
HOPE OF EVER BECOMING WHOLLY  
HUMAN AGAIN.

YOU DID  
THIS THING?

MY  
THOUGHTS  
WERE ELSE-  
WHERE AT THE  
TIME THE GNAT  
PENETRATED  
MY FORCE-  
SHIELDS AND  
CAUSED ME  
PAIN!

STILL, WE HAVE STRUCK A  
BARGAIN, YOU AND I -- SO I  
WILL DEMONSTRATE THAT I  
BEAR NO MALICE, BY INTER-  
RING MY ATTACKER WITH  
FULL HONORS?

...AND TERRAX THE TAMER  
BOWS SUBMISSIVELY ON THE  
SHATTERED SURFACE OF GALADOR.

HOW MAY  
I SERVE  
YOU,  
MASTER?

YOU HAVE ALREADY  
ILL-SERVED ME HERALD,  
BY LEADING ME TO THIS  
WORLD WHOSE CHAMPIONS  
STOOD READY TO  
DENY MY HUNGER!

NOW,  
MOLDER  
OF THE  
MARL, ONE  
SUCH CHAMPION  
MUST BE  
BURIED!

TERRAX!  
GALACTUS SUMMONS FORTH  
HIS HERALD...

YOU WOULD HAVE  
ME USE THE  
**POWER COSMIC**  
INVESTED IN MY  
**BATTLE AXE**  
TO RAISE A  
SEPULCHRE  
FOR A FAL-  
LEN FOE?

--SO, TOO, DOES TERRAX  
COMMAND THIS GALADORIAN  
CLAY TO THRUST FORTH A  
STONY BIER ON WHICH  
TO LAY TO REST A  
SPACEKNIGHT!

YOU CARRY  
WITH YOU, TO  
ETERNITY,  
**HALF THE**  
HUMANITY  
OF ROM!

**SHRAK!**

SO  
BE IT! AS  
GALACTUS  
COMMANDS  
TERRAX--

IS THAT YOUR  
EULOGY FOR A  
FRIEND, SPACE-  
KNIGHT? ARE  
THOSE THE  
WORDS WITH  
WHICH YOU  
WOULD SPEED  
HIM ON  
HIS WAY?

TERMINATOR IS ALREADY  
GONE TO GREET WHATEVER  
GODS THERE BE, TERRAX. PRO-  
CEED WITH HIS ENTOMBMENT.

THEN  
AGAIN DOES  
TERRAX SAY:  
**SO BE  
IT!**

OBEYING THE BIDDING OF TERRAX, THE STONE OF  
GALADOR ENCLOSSES THE LIFELESS CYBORG...

...AND A MONUMENT FOR PERHAPS THE MOST UN-  
FORTUNATE SPACEKNIGHT OF ALL REARS ITS STONY  
HEIGHT ABOVE THE GALADORIAN SURFACE.

I FEEL AS IF  
MY CYBORG  
LUNGS WERE  
SCREAMING  
FOR AIR--

--FOR HALF MY  
HUMANITY HAS BEEN  
ENTOMBED WITH THE  
CORPSE OF TERMINATOR!

BUT GALACTUS'S  
HUNGER ALLOWS NO  
TIME FOR GRIEF!

OUR PACT,  
GALADORIAN--  
LET IT NOW BE  
FULFILLED!

ROM, TELL US  
AGAIN WHAT  
BARGAIN YOU  
HAVE STRUCK  
WITH THE  
WORLD-  
DEVOURER!

THE ONLY BAR-  
GAIN I COULD  
STRIKE, FAIR  
STAR-  
SHINE!

IN EXCHANGE FOR GALACTUS'S PLEDGE NOT TO CONSUME THE LIFE-ENERGIES OF GOLDEN GALADOR, I HAVE VOWED TO BE HIS HERALD--TO LEAD THE RAVAGER OF WORLDS ACROSS TRACKLESS SPACE TO AN ENTIRE STAR SYSTEM WHICH HE MAY DEVOUR.

IS THIS HOW GALADOR PURCHASES HER EXISTENCE --BY TOSING GALACTUS THE BONES OF OTHER WORLDS?

ALL LIFE IS SACRED TO US, ROM! YOU CAN NOT DOOM ANOTHER STAR SYSTEM--NOT EVEN TO SAVE OUR OWN!

NOT EVEN IF THAT OTHER STAR SYSTEM WERE THE DREADED DARK NEBULA, SPACE-KNIGHTS?

THERE IS A MOMENT OF SHOCKED SILENCE AMONG THE ASSEMBLED SPACEKNIGHTS AS ROM'S REVELATION SINKS IN.

THEN... 'TIS A STROKE OF GENIUS!

GODS OF GOLDEN GALADOR, YES! YES!

ONCE AGAIN HAS ROM SHOWN THAT HE IS FIT TO LEAD US!

LET ONE ENEMY OF GALADOR CONSUME ANOTHER, AND MAYHAP BOTH WILL PERISH!

SUDDENLY THE THUNDEROUS VOICE OF GALACTUS CUTS SHORT THE GALADORIAN'S JUBILATION...

SPACEKNIGHTS! THE TIME HAS COME!

MY HUNGER GNAWS AT ME! IT MUST BE FED!

I STAND READY TO CARRY OUT MY PART OF OUR PACT, GALACTUS!

AND WE SPACE-KNIGHTS STAND READY SHOULD THE WORD OF THE WORLD-DEVOURER PROVE TO BE WITHOUT HONOR!

HONOR! DISHONOR! THOSE ARE TERMS FOR LESSER BEINGS!

I AM GALACTUS, A MORALITY UNTO MYSELF! SEEKING TO SHACKLE ME TO STANDARDS OF HONOR--

--IS LIKE TRYING TO YOKE DREAMS TO REASON!

BUT, STILL, GALACTUS HAS GIVEN... HIS WORD!

A GESTURE--A THOUGHT--IS ALL IT TAKES...

... AND THE SPACEKNIGHT HOST IS GONE FROM GALADOR.

ONE MOMENT THEY STOOD AMONG US, AND NOW THEY ARE NO MORE!

I HAVE TRANSPORTED THEM TO MY STARSHIP WHICH EVEN NOW ORBITS YOUR WORLD!

HAVE YOU? CAN WE BE SURE OF THAT?

IF GALACTUS IS BEYOND HUMAN STANDARDS OF MORALITY, HOW CAN WE TRUST IN GALACTUS'S WORD?

IT IS NO CONCERN OF GALACTUS IN WHAT YOU PLACE YOUR TRUST, GALADORIANS...

--FOR GALACTUS HAS SAID BEFORE, AND SHALL SAY AGAIN, THAT GALACTUS IS SUPREME UNTO HIMSELF!

GALACTUS IS GALACTUS!

THAT IS ALL ANY LESSER BEING EVER NEED KNOW!

HIS ARRIVAL FILLS THOSE ASSEMBLED WITHIN HIS PLANET-SIZED STARSHIP WITH OVERWHELMING AWE.

HE DOES NOT CARE.

HOW CAN HE CARE, WHEN HE WHO EXISTS TO CONSUME THE COSMOS MUST, PERFORCE, REGARD ALL CREATURES WITH WHOM HE COMES IN CONTACT AS FOOD?

IT IS MADNESS! ABOARD THIS SHIP THERE EXISTS' MACHINERY CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING THE GOLDEN GALAXY TO PUREST ENERGY--ENERGY ENOUGH TO SATE GALACTUS'S HUNGER!

WHY SHOULD I GO FAR AFIELD IN SEARCH OF NOURISHMENT WHEN I COULD SO EASILY FEAST HERE?

WE HAVE STRUCK A BARGAIN, GALACTUS.

AYE, ROM OF GALAPOR--A BARGAIN BETWEEN A LESSER BEING AND GALACTUS -- A BARGAIN WHICH I COULD BREAK AND NEVER THINK ON AGAIN!

AS THE HAUGHTY GALACTUS BENDS HIS WILL TO HIS CRAFT'S INCREDIBLE STARDRIVE ENGINES, THE SPACEKNIGHTS TURN TO THEIR LEADER...

BY HIS OWN WORDS, GALACTUS SAYS HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED!

HE SETS HIMSELF ABOVE MORTAL STANDARDS OF MORALITY, TRUST, HONOR!

HE IS ABOVE SUCH STANDARDS! HE IS GALACTUS!  
STILL, WE HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD!

'TWAS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE GALAPOR FROM HIS HUNGER!

BUT I WILL KEEP MY WORD. LEAD ME TO THIS STAR SYSTEM WHICH YOU SAY WILL SATISFY MY GNAWING HUNGER, AND YOUR GOLDEN GALAXY WILL BE SPARED.

GALAPOR! WHAT A PEACEFUL PLANET OURS ONCE WAS! THEN CAME THE DIRE WRAITHS -- OVER 200 YEARS AGO -- HEAVING HORRORS UPON OUR WORLD! WE SPACEKNIGHTS SACRIFICED THAT WHICH WE HELD MOST DEAR -- OUR HUMANITY -- TO DRIVE WRAITHKIND INTO SPACE...

...WHERE WE HAVE PURSUED THEM EVER SINCE, ERADICATING THEM EVEN AS THEY SEEK TO BREED UPON OTHER WORLDS!

BUT, AS FAST AS WE EXTERMINATE THEM, THEY APPEAR ELSEWHERE, DRAWING NEW POWER FROM THE SORCEROUS BLACK SUN OF THEIR DREAD DARK NEBULA!

SHOULD GALACTUS CONSUME THEIR HOME SYSTEM, THE POWER OF WRAITHKIND WILL BE BROKEN FOREVER!

THE TIME HAS COME, ROM OF GALAPOR, TO LEAD GALACTUS TO TABLE!

IGNITING HIS ROCKET-POPS, THE GREAT SILVER SPACEKNIGHT SOARS INTO THE VACUUM OF SPACE

THERE, HIS INTERNAL RESPIRATOR FLOODING HIS HUMAN ORGANS WITH LIFE-GIVING OXYGEN, THE SHINING CYBORG STREAMS ON AHEAD OF THE GIANT STARSHIP OF GALACTUS.

HAD GALACTUS NOT COME TO GALAPOR, GALAPOR MIGHT STILL HAVE BEEN DOOMED! HUGE, GALAXY-MOVING ENGINES HAD BEEN SET IN PLACE BY THE EVIL MENTUS TO DRIVE THE STAR SYSTEM CONTAINING GALAPOR TOWARDS THE DARK NEBULA!\*

\*AS EXPLAINED LAST ISH -- AL. 16

UPON DELIVERYANCE OF THE GOLDEN GALAXY  
TO THE DARK NEBULA, MENTUS WOULD HAVE  
SET HIMSELF UP AS LORD OVER WRAITHKIND!

MENTUS WAS DEFEATED!  
BUT STILL THE GOLDEN  
GALAXY MOVES THROUGH  
SPACE TOWARDS A  
HORRIBLE FATE!

THUS MY BARGAIN  
WITH GALACTUS HAD  
A DOUBLE-EDGE--  
SAVING GALADOR FROM  
BOTH HIS HUNGER AND  
THE HORRORS OF THE  
DARK NEBULA, AS WELL!

\*MENTUS--AN IDIENERGY CREATION OF GALADOR'S  
PRIME DIRECTOR--WAS SLAIN BY HIS CREATOR IN  
ROM #25--AL.

DOES GALACTUS EXPERIENCE  
REGRET THAT HIS ALL-CONSUMING  
HUNGER WILL ALWAYS SET SUCH  
SUPREMELY MORAL BEINGS AS  
ROM AND THE SILVER SURFER  
AGAINST HIM?

THE  
SILVER  
SURFER WAS  
MY FIRST AND  
GREATEST  
HERALD--YET  
ROM SEEMS  
HIS EQUAL IN  
EVERY WAY!

DOES THE MIGHTY GALACTUS EVER  
SUCCUMB TO--LONELINESS?

I HAVE LED GALACTUS TO FEAST  
ON MORE WORLDS THAN ALL HIS  
OTHER HERALDS COMBINED, YET  
NEVER HAS HE REGARDED ME  
WITH THE FAVOR HE RESERVES  
FOR THEM!

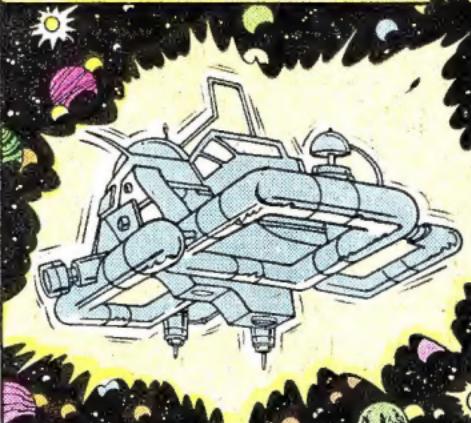
DOES THE SUPREMELY POWERFUL GALACTUS EVER WORRY AT  
THE RESENTMENT OF HIS SERVANT?

THESE ARE QUESTIONS FOR  
LESSER BEINGS TO PONDER.  
GALACTUS IS GALACTUS. HE IS  
WHAT HE IS. HE DOES WHAT HE  
DOES...

...IMPUTING NO  
MISPLACED MORALITY  
TO ACTIONS--

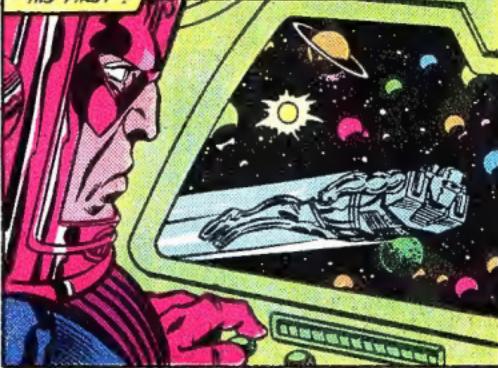
...THAT FILL  
ALL OTHERS  
WITH HELPLESS  
HORROR!

THE GREAT STARSHIP SHIMMERS, EXTENDING A  
FORCE-SCREEN THAT ENCOMPASSES ROM...



ABOARD THE GARGANTUAN STARSHIP, GALACTUS  
OBSERVES THE SPACEKNIGHT CALLED ROM.

DOES THE SIGHT OF THE SILVER CYBORG  
LIMMED AGAINST THE SHINING STARS  
REMIND GALACTUS OF ANOTHER HERALD  
--HIS FIRST?

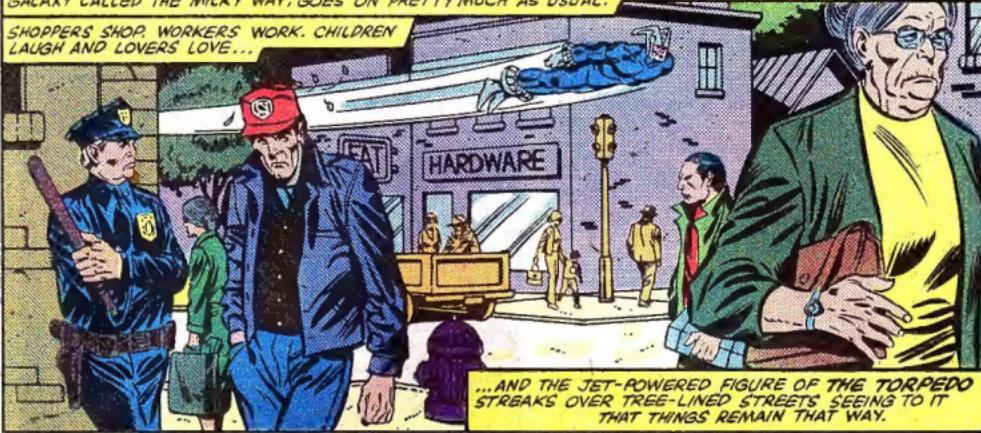


...AND, SO SHIELDED, BOTH  
PASS INTO HYPERSPACE,  
FORGING THROUGH THE VOID  
TOWARDS THE DREADED DARK  
NEBULA SO MANY LIGHT  
YEARS AWAY!



MEANWHILE, ON A WORLD NO LESS DISTANT (ALTHOUGH IN ANOTHER DIRECTION ALTOGETHER), LIFE IN THE TINY HAMLET OF CLAIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA, AMERICA, EARTH, THIRD PLANET ORBITING THE STAR-SUN SOL IN A GALAXY CALLED THE MILKY WAY, GOES ON PRETTY MUCH AS USUAL.

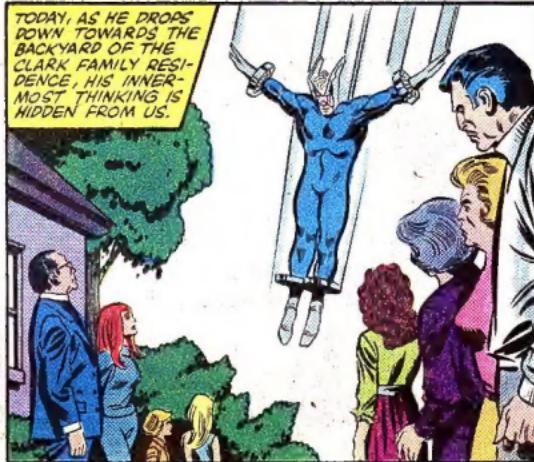
SHOPPERS SHOP. WORKERS WORK. CHILDREN LAUGH AND LOVERS LOVE...



...AND THE JET-POWERED FIGURE OF THE TORPEDO STREAKS OVER TREE-LINED STREETS SEEING TO IT THAT THINGS REMAIN THAT WAY.



USUALLY WE ARE PRIVY TO THE THOUGHTS OF THIS MAN, BROCK JONES, WHO INHERITED A SUPER-SUIT LANDED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS.



TODAY, AS HE DROPS DOWN TOWARDS THE BACKYARD OF THE CLARK FAMILY RESIDENCE, HIS INNER-MOST THINKING IS HIDDEN FROM US.

STRANGELY, SO TOO ARE HIDDEN THE THOUGHTS OF MR. AND MRS. JONATHAN CLARK, OF THEIR DAUGHTER BRANDY AND HER BOYFRIEND STEVE JACKSON, OF THE REVEREND SMITH, AND OF THE TORPEDO'S OWN WIFE AND CHILDREN.



THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO, IN TRACING THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE SILVER SPACEKNIGHT CALLED ROM, WE HAVE COME TO KNOW ALMOST INTIMATELY.

SURELY, THEN, WE SHOULD HAVE SENSED THAT, DESPITE THEIR FAMILIAR APPEARANCE, THOSE PEOPLE ASSEMBLED BEFORE US ARE NOT WHO THEY PURPORT TO BE.



THERE ARE NO OUTSIDERS IN CLAIRTON! IT IS SAFE TO SHED OUR HUMAN DISGUISES!

INDEED, THEY ARE NOT PEOPLE AT ALL... BUT DIRE WRAITHS!

ALL OVER CLAIRTON -- WITH THE SENSE OF SECURITY BEING TRANSMITTED SORCEROUSLY FROM ONE WRAITH TO ANOTHER -- SIMILAR, HORRIFIC TRANSFORMATIONS TAKE PLACE...



AH, HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO SHED OUR REPULSIVE HUMAN FORMS, IF ONLY FOR AN HOUR! BUT STILL, WE MUST EVER BE ON OUR GUARD!



THEIR FOG WAFTED OVER THE TOWN -- STEALING OUR WILLS -- AND THEN THEY STUCK US ALL DOWN HERE WHILE TAKING OUR PLACES TO PREPARE AN AMBUSH FOR ROM!

ROM LEFT YOU TO WATCH OVER CLAIRTON, TORPEDO! YOU SURE FELL ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH!



STEVE, YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR! THE TORPEDO CAN'T SEE THROUGH THE WRAITH'S HUMAN DISGUISES! NONE OF US CAN!



WHERE, LORRY HONEY? UP! DOWN! ALL AROUND THE TOWN! THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME LIMIT TO THIS **NOTHIN'GNESS** WE'VE BEEN IMPRISONED IN--AND, IF I THRUST FAR ENOUGH IN EVERY DIRECTION, MAYBE I'LL FIND IT!

THE THUNDER OF JET BACKWASH ACCOMPANIES THE TORPEDO'S ATTEMPTS TO HURL HIMSELF AGAINST THE UNSEEN EXTREMITIES OF THE BORDERLESS PRISON.

NO MATTER HOW HIGH -- HOW FAR -- HOW FAST I GO, I STILL COME UP AGAINST... NOTHING!

BUT THE WALLS ARE REAL, TORP! I BUSTED OUT OF A CELL LIKE THIS ONCE!\*

ONLY BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE ENGAGED YOUR WRAITH GUARDS BEFORE THEY COULD SEAL THE CELL BEHIND THEM, STEVE!

IT'S THE PERFECT PRISON! FOR ALL MY JET POWER, I CAN'T STRIKE OUT AGAINST SOMETHING THAT ISN'T THERE!

\*ROM #15--AL.

BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY WRAITHS SINCE THEY STUCK US IN HERE! FOOD MATERIALIZES AS IF OUT OF NOWHERE! WHEN IT STOPS, WE'LL KNOW WE'VE OUTLIVED OUR USEFULNESS, AND THE WRAITHS HAVE DECIDED TO LET US DIE!

PLEASE, BROCK -- YOU'RE FRIGHTENING THE CHILDREN!

WE'RE NOT SCARED, MOMMY!

DADDY'LL GET US OUT OF HERE! WE KNOW HE WILL!

NO ONE ANSWERS THE CHILDREN... OR NOTICES THE FAINTEST RIPPLE IN THE FLOOR OF THE WHITE CELL.

LIGHT YEARS DISTANT, A STARSHIP EMERGES FROM HYPERDRIVE TO FIND ITSELF ON THE OUTERMOST FRONTIER OF A STAR SYSTEM DOMINATED BY A HUGE, OBSCENE, EBON-BLACK SUN.

THE COLD HERE IS DEEPER THAN THE COLDEST COLD OF ANY OTHER PART OF SPACE. THE BLACK SUN SHEDS NO WARMTH UPON ITS SINGLE ORBITING WORLD.

THERE IS A SENSE OF EVIL IN THE DARKNESS THAT EMANATES FROM THE STELLAR BODY--A SENSE OF SORCERY MOST VILE, OF DARK MAGICS MOST FOUL.

THIS IS THE DARK NEBULA. 'TWAS HERE THAT THE DIRE WRAITHS--SHAPE-SHIFTING SCOURGES OF SPACE--WERE BIRTHED!

ROM HAS KEPT TO HIS PART OF OUR PACT!

AN ENTIRE STAR SYSTEM STRETCHES BEFORE ME--A WORLD AND A SUN THAT ARE GALACTUS'S FOR THE TAKING!

I LED YOU TO A LIVING WORLD, GALACTUS, BURSTING WITH THE LIFE-ENERGIES WHICH SATIATE YOUR HUNGER; WHICH SLAKE YOUR THIRST!



HAD YOU LED ME HERE INSTEAD OF TO GALADOR, TERRAX, YOU MIGHT HAVE SPARED YOURSELF BEING HUMBLED BY THE SPACEKNIGHTS!

ALL I SENSE FROM THIS DARK NEBULA BEFORE US IS DANGER--DANGER AND DEATH!

DOES THE GREAT GALACTUS CRINGE FROM DANGER? CAN THE MIGHTY GALACTUS HAVE ANY FEAR OF DEATH?

I HAVE LED YOU TO A STAR SYSTEM UPON WHICH YOU CAN FEAST UNIMPEDED, RAVAGER OF WORLDS! I HAVE FULFILLED MY PART OF OUR BARGAIN!

MY VOWS ARE NOT SO LIGHTLY GIVEN THAT I NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THEM, ROM OF GALADOR!



WILL YOU NOW CONSUME THE DARK NEBULA--OR WILL GALACTUS GO BACK ON HIS WORD?



THIS STAR SYSTEM WILL INDEED ASSUAGE THE AWE-SOME HUNGER OF GALACTUS --ONCE MY HERALD HAS PREPARED THE WAY FOR MY COMING!

TELEPORTED OUT INTO AIRLESS SPACE BY GALACTUS, TERRAX STANDS ASTRIDE AN ASTEROID AT THE PERIMETER OF THE DARK NEBULA.

GALACTUS MOCKS ME! ROM HAS ALREADY LED HIM HITHER!



HE JUST WISHES TERRAX THE TAMER TO SUFFER THE HUMILIATION OF CLAIMING FOR GALACTUS--

--A WORLD ALREADY TAMED BY THE SPACE-KNIGHTS TWO CENTURIES AGO!

MEANWHILE, ON THE BRIDGE OF GALACTUS'S STARSHIP...

I HAD FORGOTTEN HOW HORRIBLE--HOW INSIDIOUSLY EVIL -- HOW ANTI-HUMAN THE DARK NEBULA IS, ROM!

I HAVE NOT, 'TWAS HERE THAT WE FOUGHT A PITCHED BATTLE AGAINST WRAITHKIND AND WRAITH SORCERY, AND SUCCEEDED, IN DRIVING THE SHAPE-SHIFTERS INTO SPACE.

YET WE DID NOT TARRY TO SAVOR OUR VICTORY, FEARING HIDDEN HORRORS WITHIN THE DARK NEBULA!

AS IF TO underscore ROM'S DIRE PROGNOSIS, A TERRIFIED TERRAK REAPPEARS COWERING BEFORE HIS MASTER.

DEATH! DEATH AND DARKNESS! ENTER NOT THE DARK NEBULA, GALACTUS--

--LEST EVEN YOU SHOULD FAIL TO RETURN!

A HERALD OF GALACTUS QUAKING IN TERROR -- ?, WHAT KIND OF WORLD HAVE YOU LED GALACTUS TO, SPACEKNIGHT?

A WORLD--A STAR SYSTEM --UNLIKE ANY OTHER, GALACTUS! DEVOUR THE DARK NEBULA... IF YOU CAN!

I WHO HAVE SHRUGGED OFF ARMORED ARMADAS, WHO HAVE LAUGHED IN THE FACE OF LIVING PLANETS, CAN STOMACH ANY WORLD, SPACEKNIGHT!

GALACTUS WILL NOW REMOVE HIMSELF TO THIS DARK NEBULA--

--TO SEE FIRST HAND WHAT HORRORS COULD HUMBLE GALACTUS'S HERALD!

YOU SPACEKNIGHTS SHALL ACCOMPANY ME THITHER...

...TO SIT AS UNWILLING GUESTS AT THE FEAST OF GALACTUS!

**WRAITHWORLD!**

IF EVER IT POSSESSED ANY OTHER NAME, NO LIVING SOUL OUTSIDE THE DARK NEBULA EVER KNEW IT!

**WRAITHWORLD!**

ONCE IT HAD CITIES -- JET-BLACK TOWERS CLAWING AT A STARLESS SKY! VENGEFUL SPACENIGHTS TOPPLED THEM, DRIVING THE SHAPE-SHIFTING POPULACE TO WAITING SHIPS!

**WRAITHWORLD!**

BELLOW ITS SURFACE MIGHTY ENGINES OF WAR WERE BUILT! ACROSS ITS SURFACE SLAVES OF MYRIAD WORLDS LABORED AND DIED! ABOVE ITS SURFACE OBSCENE EBONY CREATURES STRETCHED THEIR LEATHERN WINGS AND SHRIEKED DOWN THE HEAVENS!

**WRAITHWORLD!**

OF ALL THE WORLDS GALACTUS HAS CONSUMED NEVER HAS HE SEEN ANY TO COMPARE WITH THIS!

RIVERS OF MOLTEN METAL SCAR THE SURFACE FEED BY Acid Rain AS ASH AS BLACK AS NIGHT SWEEPS LIKE A FESTILENCIE THROUGH THE DARKLING SKY

STILL, A WORLD IS A WORLD, AND THE HUNGER OF GALACTUS MUST BE FED!

A GESTURE...

...AND AN INSTRUMENT OF UNFATHOMABLE SCIENCE ASSEMBLES ITSELF ON THE SURFACE OF WRAITHWORLD!

MY ENERGY CONVERTOR IS AIMED NOT AT WRAITHWORLD--BUT AT YONDER BLACK SUN! THERE EXISTS NO LIFE IN THIS DARK NEBULA SO GALACTUS WILL CONSUME ALL!



WILL YOU, RAVAGER OF WORLDS? WE GALADORIANS ONCE TRIED TO DESTROY WRAITHWORLD!

FAIL TO CONSUME A WORLD ONCE MY ENERGY CONVERTOR IS IN PLACE & NEVER!

YET, EVEN NOW THE ACID RAINS OF WRAITHWORLD WASH OVER YOUR INSTRUMENT, GALACTUS, PITTING ITS SURFACE, EATING INTO ITS INNARDS!



NO! THE ENERGY CONVERTOR RUSTS, CORRODES, AS IF IT WERE MERE METAL AND NOT STELLAR STEEL FORGED BY GALACTUS HIMSELF!

AND NOW-- BROKEN DOWN INTO ELEMENTAL SLAG-- IT WASHES AWAY INTO THE MOLTEN RIVERS OF WRAITHWORLD!



THIS WORLD IS AN ANATHEMA TO ALL SAVE THOSE GIVEN LIFE AT ITS BOSOM ... THE DRE WRAITHS!

YES, GALACTUS! WRAITHWORLD BUCKLES AND HEAVES--

--IN A VIOLENT  
PLANETQUAKE  
DESIGNED TO  
EXPEL US FROM  
ITS SURFACE!

# RUMBLE!

ROM, THE ACID RAINS  
INTENSIFY THEIR CORRO-  
SIVE POWER-- EATING  
AWAY AT EVEN MY  
GALADOR-FORGED  
PLANDIUM ARMOR!

AYE, HAMMERHEAD--  
AND AT THE EVEN  
MORE IMPERVIOUS  
ARMOR OF  
GALACTUS  
HIMSELF!

NEVER HAS THE PERSON  
OF GALACTUS BEEN SO  
VIOLATED!

YOU KNEW THIS WOULD  
HAPPEN, ROM OF GALA-  
DOR! DESPITE THE FACT  
THAT WRAITHWORLD  
BIRTHED YOUR ENEMIES,  
YOU WERE TOO MORAL  
TO DESTROY THEIR  
PLANET YOURSELVES!

YOU CONTENTED  
YOURSELVES WITH  
DRIVING THE  
WRAITHS OFF  
WRAITHWORLD,  
LEAVING IT BARREN  
AND LIFELESS!

BUT THERE IS NO WORLD WHICH  
GALACTUS CANNOT CONSUME!  
THERE IS NO PLANET POWERFUL  
ENOUGH TO DEFY HIS HUNGER!

ZRAK!

LET ANTIMATTER BEAMS  
THRUST FORTH FROM MY  
ARMOR TO REDUCE THIS  
WORLD TO PUREST ENERGY!

AARGHH!  
GALACTUS'S SCREAM  
SHATTERS THE SKY  
LIKE THUNDER! WHAT  
IS IT? WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED?

PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EXISTENCE A WORLD HAS FEED ON GALACTUS'S ENERGY AS GALACTUS IS WONT TO FEED ON THE ENERGY OF A WORLD!

**THROOM!**

GALACTUS IS TOPPLED!  
HE FALLS!

NEVER IN MY EON-SPANNING EXISTENCE HAS SUCH AN AFFRONT BEEN DEALT GALACTUS! IT WILL NOT BE COUNTENANCED!

I WILL SHATTER THIS WORLD-- AND FEED ON THE PIECES!!

AGAIN ANTI-MATTER BOLTS LASH OUT... AND THE RESULT IS THE SAME.

**GAARRR!**

ROM, WE DARE NOT REMAIN ON WRAITH-WORLD, LEST OUR ARMOR DISSOLVE ABOUT US!

--FOR GALADOR'S FATE HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

YET, REMAIN WE MUST, FAIR STAR-SHINE, TO SEE THE OUTCOME OF THIS MAD BATTLE BETWEEN A FEASTER AND HIS FOOD--

YOU HAVE TRICKED ME SPACEKNIGHT! THIS WORLD WILL NOT BE CONSUMED!

TRICKED YOU, GALACTUS? NO, I HAVE MERELY LED YOU TO A WORLD AS RAVENOUS AS YOURSELF!

I PROMISED TO BRING YOU TO A LIFELESS WORLD UPON WHICH YOU COULD FEAST!

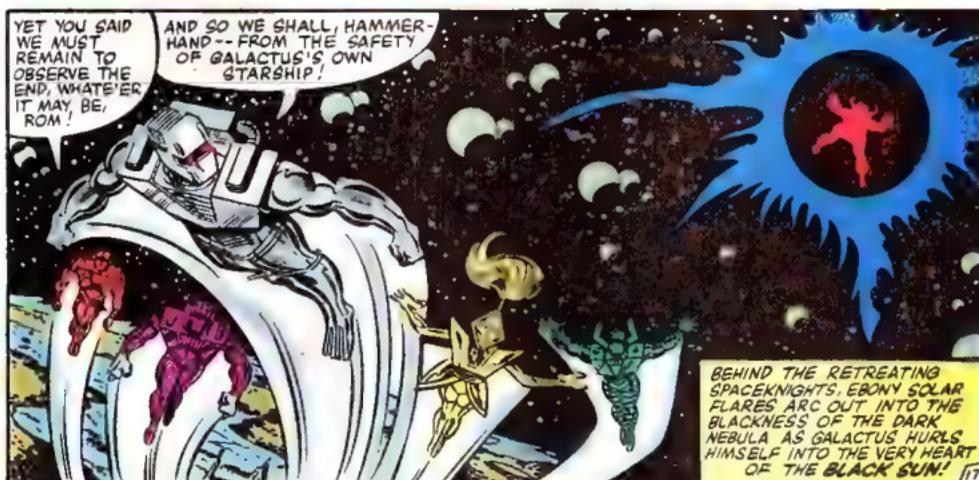
I NEVER GUARANTEED THAT WRAITHWORLD WOULD NOT TRY TO FEED UPON YOU!

IT IS THE BLACK SUN IN THE DARK HEAVENS ABOVE THAT SUPPLIES THIS WORLD WITH ENERGY TO RESIST CONSUMPTION BY GALACTUS!

THUS SHALL  
GALACTUS CUT  
OFF WRAITH-  
WORLD'S  
ENERGY AT  
ITS  
SOURCE--

--BY  
LAUNCHING  
HIMSELF  
OFF THE  
PLANET'S  
POCK-  
MARKED SURFACE--

--TO CONFRONT AND  
CONSUME THE VERY  
**BLACK SUN**  
ITSELF!





EXPENDING ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF ENERGY TO GROW TO THE SIZE OF THE BLACK SUN ITSELF, GALACTUS ATTEMPTS TO FEED FROM THE EBONY ORB.



BUT AS IF SENSING GALACTUS'S OWN ENERGIES, THE BLACK SUN EXTENDS TENDRILS OF POWER WHICH, TAKING LIVING SHAPE AS DEMONS OF DARKNESS ATTEMPT TO FEED ON GALACTUS HIMSELF.



THESE ARE THE DEATHWINGS, SORCEROUS CONJURATIONS OF A GALAXY WHERE ALL PHYSICAL LAWS ARE RULED BY MAGIC MOST BLACK!



SINCE 200 YEARS AGO, ROM ENCOUNTERED AND DEFEATED ONE QUEEN MOTHER DEATHWING!

THE BATTLE ALMOST KILLED HIM

HOW THEN WILL GALACTUS THIS DAY FARE AGAINST A DOZEN OR MORE?

FLEEING THE HOLO-COAST, THE SPACE-KNIGHTS ATTAIN THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF GALACTUS'S SHIP.

MY MASTER IS NOT WITH YOU! HAS THE UNTHINKABLE COME TO PASS? HAS THE INCOMPARABLE GALACTUS SUCUMBED TO THE HORRORS OF THE DARK NEBULA?

NONE KNOWS AS YET, TERRAX --

-- WHETHER GALACTUS HAS CONSUMED... OR HAS BEEN CONSUMED HIMSELF!

THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, GALADORIAN --

-- STANDS BEFORE YOU!

GALACTUS!

MASTER!

YOU LIVE! THEN, THE DARK NEBULA --!

THE DARK NEBULA EXISTS AS IT WILL ALWAYS EXIST--AN ARCANE PRESENCE IN THE COSMOS--AN OBSCENE PESTHOLE GIVING RISE TO PLAGUE AND PESTILENCE!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS EXISTENCE IT CAN BE SAID OF GALACTUS THAT HE HAS MET A WORLD--AN ENTIRE SECTOR OF SPACE--WHICH HE HAD NOT THE STOMACH TO CONSUME!

WITH THE MEREST THOUGHT,  
THE GAUNT GALACTUS  
DIRECTS HIS HUGE STAR-  
SHIP TO RE-ENTER HYPER-  
SPACE.

BEHIND IT, THE DARK  
NEBULA RECEDES, AND  
ALL ABOARD FEEL THEY  
ARE ESCAPING SOME  
TORTURED NIGHTMARE.

YOU KNEW, ROM OF GALADOR,  
THAT THE PARK NEBULA  
WOULD ATTEMPT TO FEED ON  
ME EVEN AS I TRIED TO  
FEED UPON IT?

YES, GALACTUS-- I  
KNEW. MANY A GAL-  
ADORIAN WAS CON-  
SUMED BY THE  
CREATURES FROM  
THE BLACK SUN  
BEFORE WE ABAN-  
DONED OUR AT-  
TEMPTED DE-  
STRUCTION OF  
WRAITH WORLD.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
A MORE FITTING PUNISH-  
MENT HAD YOU  
ALLOWED  
WRAITHKIND TO  
REMAIN  
ON THEIR  
WORLD!

THE WRAITHS WOULD  
NOT HAVE TAKEN  
IT SO, GALACTUS!

OUR PACT,  
SPACEKNIGHT?  
DID YOU  
BARGAIN IN  
GOOD FAITH--

BUT WHAT OF  
OUR PACT? WHAT OF  
YOUR ASSUR-  
ANCE TO LEAVE  
GALADOR  
ALONE?

--OR DID YOU  
TRY TO LEAD  
THE DEVOURER  
TO THE  
SLAUGHTER?

I BARGAINED WITH MY WORLD  
UPON THE BLOCK, GALACTUS!  
AYE, I HOPE YOU MIGHT  
MEET YOUR END-- THAT THE  
DEVOURER MIGHT BE  
DEVOURED-- BUT I ALSO  
HOPED YOU MIGHT PREVAIL  
OVER THE PARK NEBULA--

--FOR WHEN  
HAS GALACTUS  
EVER BEEN  
KNOWN TO  
FAIL?

ROM, GALACTUS  
STARES AT YOU WITH  
FURY IN HIS EYES!  
WHAT WILL HE DO?

DOZ OF ALL THE ACTIONS  
GALACTUS COULD HAVE  
TAKEN, THIS WAS THE  
MOST UNPREDICTABLE.

HE THROWS  
BACK HIS HUGE,  
HELMETED  
HEAD... AND  
LAUGHS!

THE SOUND IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER EVER HEARD THE  
LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE COSMOS.

VERY WELL, SPACEKNIGHT--TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY! YOU DID LEAD ME TO THE DARK NEBULA, AS YOU PROMISED! 'TWAS NO FAULT OF YOURS THAT I FAILED TO FEAST!

THEN YOU'LL KEEP TO YOUR BARGAIN? GALADOR WILL REMAIN SAFE?

SAFE, WOMAN? AYE, AND MORE! YOU SAID THAT YOUR GOLDEN GALAXY HAD BEEN MOVED FROM ITS RIGHTFUL POSITION IN SPACE...

... THAT AN EVIL GENIUS HAD SENT IT HURTLING TOWARDS CERTAIN DESTRUCTION IN THE DARK NEBULA!

GALACTUS WILL NOW SHOW HIS MAGNANIMITY OF SPIRIT BY PRESERVING YOUR WORLD FROM HARM!

TO REAPPEAR ON THIS ASTEROID!

WHY? WHERE HAS GALACTUS SENT US?

SCAN YOUR VECTOR-CIRCUITS. DO THEY NOT TELL YOU WHERE WE ARE?

YES. THIS IS THE SECTOR OF SPACE OCCUPIED BY THE GOLDEN GALAXY--

--BUT GALADOR IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!

THEN GALACTUS WENT BACK ON HIS WORD! GALADOR HAS GONE TO FEED HIS HUNGER!

NO, GALACTUS HAS KEPT TO HIS WORD, STARSHINE. INDEED, FAR FROM DEVOURING GALADOR, HE HAS RELOCATED IT IN SPACE.

GALACTUS HAS SAVED OUR WORLD.

AS HE SAID, TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY. THE GOLDEN GALAXY IS NO LONGER PLUNGING TOWARDS CERTAIN DESTRUCTION IN THE DARK NEBULA -- BUT NEITHER IS IT ANYWHERE WHERE WE SPACEKNIGHTS CAN HOPE TO FIND IT...

... UNLESS WE DEVOTE CENTURIES TO THE SEARCH! TO DO SO WE WOULD BE FORCED TO ABANDON OUR QUEST--

--THUS DOOMING HUNDREDS OF HELPLESS WORLDS TO THE DARE WRAITHS!

AND THAT WE CAN NEVER DO!

DRIFTING AMONG THE STARS, THE SPACE-KNIGHTS HANG THEIR HEADS.

NEXT MONTH:

WILL ROM DIE IN THE EMBRACE OF HIS FRIENDS?

# EARTHWARD BOUND!



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